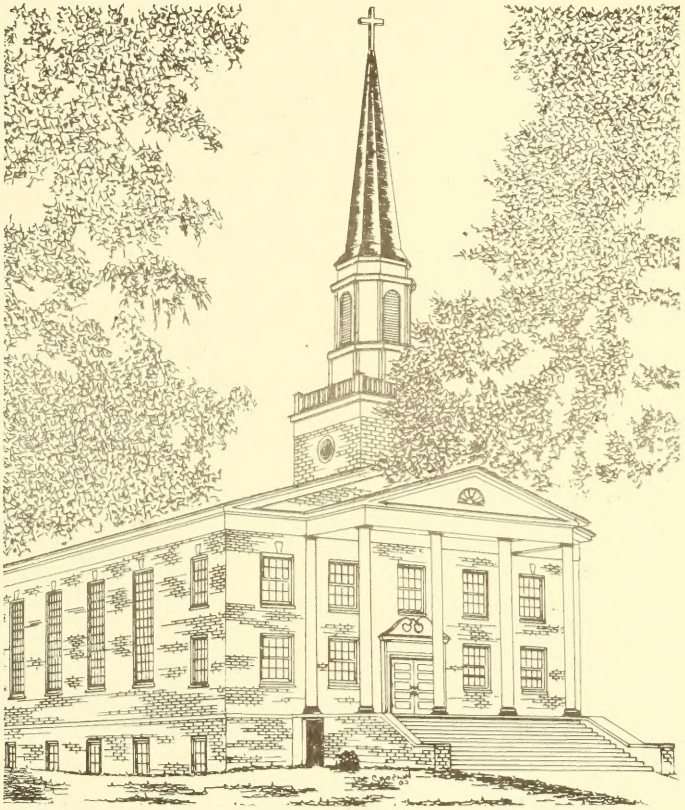
Mount Zion
United Methodist Church

Cornelius, North Carolina

REVEREND ROY E. BELL, *Minister*



Celebrates its

Sesquicentennial Year

June 23, 1827 – June 23, 1978

with

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

HOMECOMING DAY

MAY 28, 1978

Contents

Page

Foreword and Dedication 2

History 3

Original Deed for Zion, March 24, 1828 14

Contract for Meeting House called Zion, February 15, 1835 15

Confederate Soldiers Buried at Mount Zion 16

Earlier Ministerial Leadership of Mount Zion, 1827 - 1871 17

Later Ministerial Leadership of Mount Zion, 1872 - 1978 18

Directory of Church Officials 1978 19

FOREWORD

In compiling the History of Mount Zion United Methodist Church I have used both historical fact and human recollection. Although I have been very careful to try to document my facts in this preparation, some degree of error is inevitable.

DEDICATION

To Mrs. Frank C. Sherrill, Sr., our oldest member, who has lived and served 98 years of the history of Mount Zion

To Mr. Ben M. Brown, who taught me in high school, inspired my love of history, and stressed the importance of it in our lives

To my Methodist Forbears who steadfastly believed "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Miriam Smith Whisnant

May 28, 1978

The History

of

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

By

MIRIAM SMITH WHISNANT

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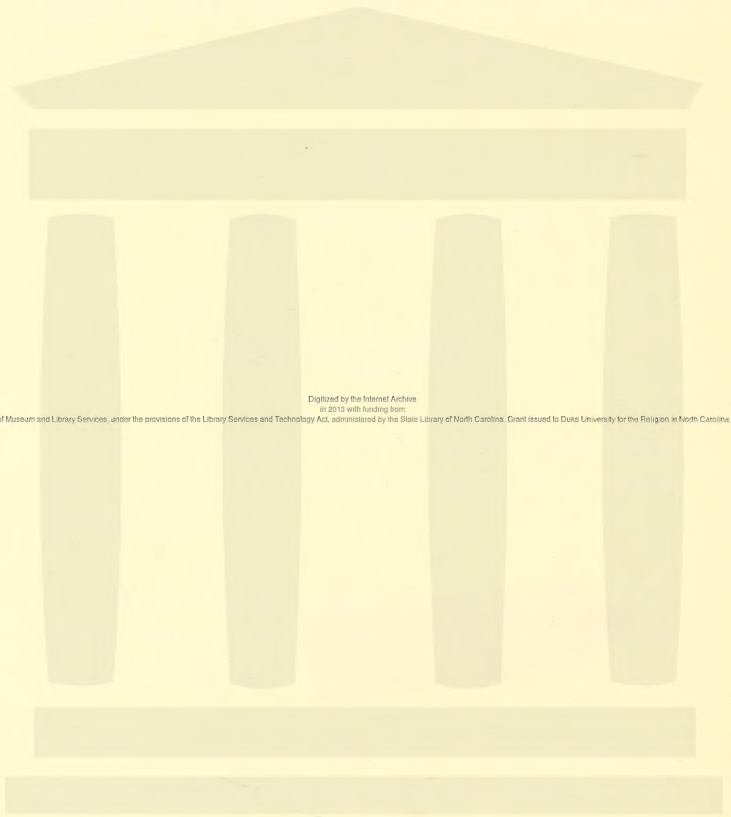

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"Where there is no Vision, the people perish—"

Proverbs 29: 18

The History

of

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

Between the years 1745 and 1775 a great and steady migration of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and German Lutherans took place from Pennsylvania and Maryland into the Piedmont region of North Carolina. The route they followed was originally used by the Indians as a North-South trading path leading from Virginia through the Carolinas into Georgia. The settlers designated this route as the "Great Wagon Road." The land between the Yadkin and Catawba rivers was fertile, well watered virgin land, available by "land grant" from Lord Granville who owned Rowan County and Lord Anson who owned Anson County. At that time these two counties encompassed most of the territory from the Yadkin to the Mississippi. The newcomers chose their land on which to build their homes on some pleasing creek or river, which might afford transportation routes or a mill site to aid in providing a livelihood for their families. At least 812 families have been identified as living between the Yadkin and Catawba rivers by the end of 1751. The settlements were isolated and scattered over many miles. Governor William Tryon wrote in 1766 that "this colony is being settled faster than any in America, and last autumn and spring upwards of 1,000 wagons passed through Salisbury, North Carolina on their way west."

Methodism in northern Mecklenburg County was late becoming established. This was due to the fact that almost the entire Scotch-Irish population was Presbyterian. Yet, some of the settlers were from England and Ireland with Methodist connections, or were at least interested in the Methodist approach. Historians document that George Whitefield, a Methodist co-patriot of John and Charles Wesley in England, came to North Carolina on several journeys and preached. In 1742 George Whitefield preached what is considered the first Methodist sermon in our area on property that is now occupied by the campus of Davidson College. By 1766 large Methodist Societies had been organized in New York and Maryland and the movement slowly filtered south. An Anglican minister in New Bern, North Carolina wrote "a number of Methodists from New England have settled among us and they are ignorant, censorious, and uncharitable."

The Methodist system was divided into wide-ranging circuits with one or more itinerant preachers appointed to travel, preach, and organize Methodist societies. The first Carolina Circuit was created in 1776 and included all of North and South Carolina. Within this Methodist Circuit there were

dozens of tiny societies and preaching places, each with its leader who served as a spokesman for local church affairs. Methodists spoke of "going to Society"—meaning going to church.

On December 25, 1784, the sixty Methodist itinerants in America met in Baltimore, Maryland, and created the Methodist Episcopal Church in America—the first Methodist denomination in the world. This conference is referred to as the "Christmas Conference." Two Bishops were elected, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. Of the two, Bishop Asbury was more influential in directing the Methodist system in America. Bishop Asbury made many trips into North Carolina from 1780 until his death, March 31, 1816. He kept detailed journals of his experiences, and states that he crossed the mountains in North Carolina sixty times. In 1794 he records that he visited Circuit Rider Daniel Asbury near Charlotte. Accommodations were difficult to find at best. Once Asbury wrote "I slept in a cabin with an earthen floor on a bed set upon forks and clap-boards laid across." He went on to remark that "The accommodations were not comfortable and the owner of the cabin was not pleasing." Each of the itinerant clergy looked to Bishop Asbury for leadership, guidance, and for their annual appointment to the circuits. In North Carolina the Methodist population was listed at 3,446 in 1784 and by 1790 the sixteen circuits reported a membership of 8,536 whites and 1,797 blacks.

The Circuit Rider, Daniel Asbury, was appointed by Bishop Asbury in 1787 to serve in North Carolina. Daniel Asbury's preaching is credited with being the leading influence in the spread of Methodism in our area. He led services, often in the open air or under a brush arbor with a stand, for more than forty years. He married Miss Nancy Morris, settled near Terrell, North Carolina, and raised a large family. Several of his direct descendants are members of Mount Zion. In 1791 Daniel Asbury organized Rehobeth Church, the first Methodist meeting society west of the Catawba River. Other early established Methodist Societies in this area were McKendree's in 1804, and Buckhill (later Trinity) in 1814. Trinity's beginning preaching place met in the home of Mrs. Margaret Kerr Martin, widow of James Martin.

Probably the single most important factor to keep Methodism flourishing in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties was the "Great Revival Era" of the early 1800's. Methodist camp meeting grounds were laid out in certain areas and preaching places were erected under brush arbors. Large numbers of people attended and lived in tents erected around the arbor. Historians record that crowds estimated as large as 8,000 to 10,000 people would journey many miles to attend, as these meetings were important in the religious and social life of the people. Frequently during services, high emotionalism with loud shouting, Amen's, and physical exertion took place. The most peculiar of these was the "jerks" which caused the body to sway with considerable violence. In Grissom's *History of Methodism in North Carolina* an eye-witness report during a camp meeting in Lincoln County described the awesome proceedings as follows: "I have seen persons exercised in such a way that they would go all over the floor with a quick dancing movement, and with such rapidity that their feet would rattle upon the floor like drum sticks."

On *June 23, 1827*, at the Second Quarterly Conference of the Sugar Creek Circuit, South Carolina Conference, we find inscribed in the minutes for the first time *"the Meeting Society called Zion."* Another Western North Carolina Conference source states "a preaching place called Zion has been organized in the home of Samuel Kerr in 1827." This Samuel Kerr was a brother of Mrs. Margaret Kerr Martin in whose home the earlier Trinity Meeting Society met in 1814.

The next significant date in the history of Zion appears *March 24, 1828* when a deed for 2 acres, 4 poles is made by Alexander Warsham to David George and Osborn Jetton of Iredell County, Job Cannon, John Kerr, and Andress Moore of Mecklenburg County, Trustees in trust for the purpose of building a house or place of worship called Zion, for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. This deed was duly filed for record July 8, 1828. The property was located about one mile west of the Town of Cornelius, North Carolina, on the south side of present Highway 73. The trustees named were designated as Conference Trustees—David George and Osborn Jetton from McKendree's and Job Cannon, John Kerr, and Andress Moore from Trinity. These two older churches were designated as sponsors to oversee the foundation and growth of the new meeting society called Zion. On this tract of land a small, rustic meeting house was built in 1828. In the *History of Trinity Methodist Church* by Coyte H. McClure, and others, a recorded description of Trinity's first church building is given: "they cut, hewed, and hauled logs and reared a small house covered with clapboards, weighted down and kept on by heavy poles; boards were cut for the floor, laid rough and loose, for the one door and the pulpit, and slab for the benches. About two feet of a log on either side of the building was cut out for windows, and one at the rear of the pulpit for light." This would seem to be an appropriate description for the first house of worship at Zion at that period of time in history. We know there was a building on the site for on July 4, 1829, the minutes of the Sugar Creek Circuit record that their meeting was held in Zion Meeting House. These same minutes record that Zion contributed $1.12½ to the Conference that quarter. On this original first tract of land there remains today a small, overgrown cemetery with a dozen or more unmarked grave sites. Only the graves of Samuel U. Kerr, died 1829, and Dovey J. Kerr, died 1850, are identifiable. These are the Kerrs in whose home Zion had its beginnings.

Zion remained on its original site until 1835 when the congregation moved to a beautiful seven and one-half acre grove of oak and pine on the east side of the Charlotte-Statesville road. This property was donated for a church by Alexander Johnston and is located in the Town of Cornelius, North Carolina. Later an additional two and one-half acres was purchased from W. A. Black for the sum of thirty dollars. On February 15, 1835 a contract was entered into as follows:

> Articles of agreement between David Mulford of the one part and James Black of the other part: Witness, that James Black doth agree to do the workmanship of building a meeting House to be called Zion in a good and workmanlike manner to be finished against the first of July. He agrees to make the

walls of the House 35 feet long and 25 feet wide across and weatherboard and cover said House and make nine windows fifteen lites with shutters and three doors and lay the floor ruff—and weatherboarding is to be ruff—and make a gallory ten feet wide and recommend stairs to be in out side of the House to be ruff and all the materials to be brought to the place and shingles and nails to be found. Said Black obligates himself to the above described House for ninety dollars to be paid when said House is finished, by said David Mulford. In Witness we have set our hands and seals the 15th day of February, 1835.

James Black

David Mulford

Witness:

Robert Potts

A motion was made by the Sugar Creek quarterly conference on May 2, 1835, while meeting at Sandy Ridge to hold the next meeting on July 4, 1835, at *Mount Zion.* These minutes show two very important facts—

1. The new meeting house at Zion was completed by the first of July as called for in the contract, since the quarterly conference was to meet in the House on July 4, 1835.

2. "Mount" appears before the name Zion for the first time. Any reference to the church from that date always uses "Mount Zion." Andress Moore was the recording secretary of the Sugar Creek Circuit at that time.

The next few years found the following significant information inscribed in the minutes of Sugar Creek Circuit, of which Mount Zion was a member:

February 24, 1838

A Constitution for a Missionary Society unanimously adopted by all delegates.

April 8, 1839

A circuit parsonage proposed and a committee authorized to purchase a suitable house and furniture for the preacher's family. House to be located in the Bethel Society (now Cabarrus County) area.

Money subscribed for	House	$298.50
	Furniture	46.23
	Total	$344.73

June 15, 1839

A Directive issued by Conference for the Celebration of the Centenery of Methodism:

"Moved and seconded that the Societys who have not the opportunity of preaching on the 25th of October 1839, the Centinary Selibration of Methodism, have family prayer at sunrise, collect at the church at 11 o'clock, and spend some time in prayer and praise, and kep the whole of the day as a Sabath to the Lord."

For the next two decades Mount Zion grew and prospered. The rumors of a war were spreading. When Fort Sumter was fired on April 12, 1861, the War Between the States began. Lives, homes, and families in this area were caught up in the war, never to be the same again. Young men by the hundreds in the vicinity of Mount Zion joined the Southern Cause. A Salisbury, North Carolina editor of the local newspaper wrote, "the earth is almost vibrating with the troops of men marching to battle." The Methodists began on May 30, 1861, to hold daily morning prayers asking for divine aid in such troubled times.

Mount Zion offered her beloved Church grounds for the muster of two companies of proud sons, husbands, and fathers who donned the grey uniform of the Confederacy: Company K, 56th Regiment, and Company C, 1st Cavalry Regiment of North Carolina Troops. There are forty-five Confederate Soldiers buried in the church cemetery.

About 1886, Mr. R. J. Stough, a veteran of Company K, 56th Regiment, was instrumental in organizing the United Confederate Veteran reunions. In 1900 the Mount Zion Church property was designated as the permanent reunion site, with the annual affair to be held the first Thursday in August. Thousands of people arrived in the area each year for the celebration. A bountiful "dinner on the grounds" was prepared by the ladies of the community. There were refreshment and novelty stands, and in later years carnival rides on the adjoining Stough property. In the earlier years the high light of the day was the formation of a long line of the veterans, all dressed in some part of their beloved "greys.' They marched proudly around the grounds as a band played "Dixie." Eyewitness reports tell that the hills back of the church resounded to the many piercing rebel yells throughout the afternoon. Tales of their war experiences were told and retold by the veterans to any and all who gathered round. In 1910 a large Confederate Memorial Monument was erected in front of Mount Zion Church at a cost of approximately $10,000. A list of 585 contributors was kept by Mrs. R. J. Stough. Money was raised by individual donors, oyster suppers, fiddlers conventions and amateur shows with box suppers. On August 6, 1910 the monument was unveiled by little Miss Feriba Stough with Congressman E. Y. Webb making the dedication address. A cheering crowd of 6,000 people attended. Through the years as the "long grey line" dwindled, veterans of the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II were honored. The last official Confederate Reunion was held August 4, 1949. Lt. General John R. Hodge. Commanding General of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was the speaker. That day he stood in line to sign the Confederate Veteran's guest book just as thousands of veterans had done through the years.

During the hard reconstruction years a second larger frame church building was erected in 1870. This building stood back in a grove of large

oak trees on the crest of the hill above where the second or newer cemetery is located. During 1870 Mount Zion was transferred to the North Charlotte Circuit in the North Carolina Conference. During 1878 some improvements were made to the church. The interior was sealed and a gallery was added. Oil lamps with reflectors were installed—up until this time candelabra made of tin were used for lighting. Camp meetings were held each summer on the Mount Zion grounds. Water was secured from a spring down the hill from the church.

Local Quarterly Conference minutes report:

February 9, 1884

Rev. J. W. North reports "the Sabbath School here is in a prosperous condition under the management of Bro. Potts (Thomas Espy Potts), our laborious and zealous Superintendent. This school has gone on winter and summer and is a live school."

A collection has been taken for a much needed library for the Sunday School.

Stewards serving in 1884 were: W. A. Brown, W. A. Gillespie, J. Y. Weddington, J. V. Bost, W. A. Mock, W. T. Thompson, T. E. Potts, and R. M. Armour.

June 20, 1885

W A. Brown was appointed a committee of one to ascertain who the Trustees of this church are. This action was probably prompted by the fact that Mr. Brown and Mr. R. J. Stough were concerned that the area children had no formal school to attend. In 1885 these two men built a one room schoolhouse on the church property. Miss Emma Thompson (later Mrs. R. J. Stough), was secured as the first teacher. She was to especially try to prepare the older students for college. That first school year, 1885, found the oldest student, W. W. Washam 16 years of age, and the youngest student, Mollie Barnett 5 years of age, studying in the same classroom. Several additional classrooms were added to the building later on.

September 19, 1885

18 officers and teachers for the Sunday School
169 scholars
150 volumes in the library

December 24, 1889

"On Christmas Eve a Christmas Tree was given to the Sunday School which we trust pleased and encouraged all," wrote Rev. M. A. Smith. Apparently this was the first Christmas tree at Mount Zion and the beginning of the annual event which is still being enjoyed by the children of our Sunday School. Again in 1898 Rev. Ira Irwin writes "During the holidays a very successful Christmas tree was given. All the scholars were remembered, and the children seemed to enjoy it very much."

1890

An organ was placed in the church, taking the place of a tuning fork or pitch pipe which was used earlier for congregational singing.

May 31, 1890

The following were appointed by the local quarterly conference to serve on a building committee for a new church: W. A. Brown, W. A. Gillespie, C. E. Bost, R. J. Stough, W. G. Sawyer, R. M. Armour, A. L. Hobbs, J. M Barnhart, J. T. Westmoreland, J. R. Warsham, T. E. Potts, J. Y. Weddington and J. M. Dove

November 3, 1891

1. An Epworth League has been organized during the past quarter.

2. *Mollie Barnett* among others who joined the church on profession of faith. Rev. M. A. Smith was the Pastor. She is now Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Sr., and is on this date, May 28th, 1978, the oldest member of Mount Zion. She was born February 5, 1880, the daughter of Isaac Wilson and Mary Rosalind Stough Barnette.

May 7, 1894

A new building committee was elected to construct a new parsonage on the lot across the road from the church: W. A. Brown, Chairman, J. V. Bost, A. H. Smith, R. J. Stough and J. Y. Weddington. In 1895 three others were added: T. L. Thompson, A. L. Hobbs, and J. W. Gillespie. Subscriptions were taken.

June 5, 1897

1. A Local Ladies Aid Society organized with 20 members. Dues were five cents per month. $3.21 raised first quarter.

2. By May 31, 1925, this group had grown to three circles with 100 members.

September 4, 1897

1. Parsonage has been completed.

Total Cost of Parsonage, Well, and Outbuildings	$ 830.25
Painting	100.00
Extra Hauling	70.00
Total	$1,000.25

2. Purchased four dozen songbooks for Sunday School at a cost of $7.45

3. J. B. Cornelius, co-founder of the Cornelius Mill and the Town of Cornelius, incorporated in 1905 and named for Mr. Cornelius, transferred his membership from McKendree's to Mount Zion.

June 4, 1898

A new building committee elected to build a new church: J. L. Smith, J. B. Cornelius, W. A. Brown, R. J. Stough, J. W. Goodrum, A. L. Hobbs, M. W. Cranford, and the Rev. J. O. Shelley.

1898 through 1903

The congregation devoted itself to building a new brick church on seven and one-half acres acquired from P. A. Stough on February 18, 1902. This new church was located in front of the 1870 building and is the site on which our present church stands. Brick for the church were made nearby. The Dedication Service was held in 1903 when Rev. M. H. Vestal was Pastor.

February 24, 1902

1. A new Board of Trustees was elected to secure the parsonage and church building for Mount Zion Church. They were: J. B. Cornelius, R. J. Stough, F. C. Sherrill, J. O. Turbyfill, John R. Washam, J. L. Smith, P. A. Stough, W. D. Shoemaker, W A Gillespie and J M. Dove.

2. During 1902 the rock wall was removed from around the graveyard.

July 2, 1904

1. Trustees authorized to sell the old church building—did so for $80.00.

2. Trustees agreed to sell the County Board of Education a lot for a new public school building to revert to said church if ceased to be used for same.

3. Conference called attention to large membership of Mount Zion and the vast territory covered. Would general interests be enhanced by organizing other congregations and housing of same?

May 6, 1905

1. An infant department organized for the Sunday School.

2. Money has been raised to place an iron fence around the cemetery at a cost of $300.00.

3. Through the efforts of J. L. Smith and Mrs. A. E. Cornelius a beautiful Communion set has been secured at a cost of $47.50.

Beginning in 1906 Mount Zion undertook to support a foreign missionary, the cost to be $600.00. At that time Rev. and Mrs. Stephen A. Stewart were assigned to Kobe, Japan. 460 individuals subscribed $512. Mr. J. B. Cornelius enabled the church to continue supporting Rev. Stewart for the next four or five years.

Two Methodist churches have been directly established out of the Mount Zion Church membership.

January 4, 1908

Ninety-nine people were removed by certificate from the Mount Zion Church roll to form a new Methodist Church in Davidson, North Carolina. This left a membership of 517 at Mount Zion.

March, 1908

A group was removed by certificate to establish a Methodist Church in Huntersville, North Carolina.

February 17, 1917

Mount Zion trustees instructed to purchase vacant school building on church property for $250.00 to be used for Sunday School. In 1922 this building was remodeled to be used for community work.

April 5, 1919

A building committee elected to remodel and improve Church building: F. C. Sherrill, R. J. Stough, W. R. Potts, R. J. White, W. E. Long, A. F. Torrence, John Bustle, B. T. Cook, D. P. McCord, A. L. Hobbs, R. M. Washam, P. A. Stough, J. W. Hawks, Joe Sherrill, C. F. Smith and J. M. Hoyle. This work was begun on February 17, 1920. A gallery was added which included Sunday School rooms, and additional rooms were partitioned in the rear of the church. This prompted the minister, Rev. W. Baxter Davis, to write "On June 20, 1920, we began use of our new Sunday School rooms. Everyone seems encouraged over the new situation."

October 5, 1923

1. A Music Committee appointed: Miss Bertha Barnett, Bert Lowrance, G. H. Kelly, Mrs. W. W. Washam and Miss Annie Caldwell.

2. Church Roll 694 members.

March 31, 1929

Bishop Mouzon will preach at Mount Zion on July 14, 1929 at the eleven o'clock A.M. service. We will probably make that our Day of Song and Fellowship or Homecoming Day and we hope to make it a great and helpful occasion. Rev. R. A. Swaringen was the minister. This service has been celebrated annually since this date.

November 17, 1931

Church Roll 832 members.

December 20, 1931

1. The first Weekly Church Bulletin has been inaugurated.
2. Improvements made and new furniture purchased for the parsonage.
3. New windows installed in the Church.

October 18, 1932

"In September the Men's Bible Class—several Men's classes had been combined—started work on their Sunday School building. This building is

nearing completion and is a credit to the church and community. The building is made of logs, is well built and attractive. A large rock chimney and fireplace adds greatly to the usefulness and attractiveness of the building. The auditorium is 30' x 50' and the kitchen is 10' x 16'. The building is uniquely lighted with lanterns in which electric bulbs are used. This building will serve not only as the home of the large Mount Zion Men's Bible Class, but as a recreation and social center of the Church. It fills a long felt need in the Church." Rev. W. A. Barber.

The first officers of this class were: T. P. Howard, President, B. S. Sherrill, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer, and Ben M. Brown, Teacher. At this writing Mr. Brown is serving his forty-sixth consecutive year as teacher of this class.

June 11, 1933

Homecoming Day was moved to the fourth Sunday of May. Rev. Barber wrote, "Homecoming Day on the fourth Sunday of May was a great success. Amplifiers were installed for the convenience of the overflow congregation. It was said that the largest crowd to ever attend was at this Homecoming."

October 27, 1933

Rev. E. M. Avett wrote, "The condition of the people has been at low ebb, owing to the depression we have been going through. However, Mount Zion will meet its obligations."

June 9, 1935

This year, beginning on June 17, 1935, a Vacation Bible School will be conducted at Mt. Zion.

October 15, 1936

Church Roll lists 824 members.

October 6, 1940

1. A small new Educational Building is being constructed at the rear of the church. This building was dedicated in 1942.
2. A Woman's Society of Christian Service organized.
3. Membership Roll 912.

July 26, 1942

Rev. W. S. Smith reports that he is corresponding with nearly 50 boys from Mount Zion who are serving in the Armed Forces. The WSCS has mailed testaments to these servicemen.

October 3, 1945

1. Trustees authorized to sell the present parsonage to prepare for construction of new parsonage on north corner of Church property.
2. Building Committee to construct new parsonage: C. S. Proctor, John L. Harwell, and Laurence Nantz.

November 25, 1947

All debts on parsonage paid in full.

August 20, 1952

New Church building begun under the following building committee: A. D. Cashion, Chairman, H. R. Smith, Keith R. Howard, Miss Mary

Sherrill, Ben A. Washam, B. S. Sherrill, Sr., and Otis Wally. This Church was just north of the 1903 site. The Church was completed and the first service held August 22, 1954 with Rev. F. W. Kiker preaching. On May 24, 1959, which was Homecoming Sunday, the Dedication Service was conducted by Dr. Walter J. Miller with the Pastor, Rev. J. C. Grose, and Rev. F. W. Kiker, former Pastor, assisting.

Trustees of Church property were F. C. Sherrill, Jr., Chairman, J. B. Readling, Mrs. W. E. Long, Dr. W. W. Washam, Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Sr., H. R. Smith, F. C. Stough, J. M. Cook, and C. S. Proctor. Contract for Church building was $145,000.00. Sloan and Wheatly, Architects, designed the Church and construction was by Jack M. McGee.

March 5, 1961

The Official Board of Trustees of Mount Zion joined Dr. Walter J. Miller and Rev. J. C. Grose in leading the congregation in ground-breaking services for a new Educational Building. The building committee elected to guide the construction were: Hugh R. Smith, Chairman, Keith Howard, Ray Price, B. S. Sherrill, Sr., Miss Mary Sherrill, Woodrow Washam, and Mrs. L. Rodney Whisnant. This building was completed in December 1961, and the Sunday School began using the building in January, 1961. A Cornerstone Laying Service for the Educational Building was held on Homecoming Sunday, May 27, 1962. Dr. Embree H. Blackard and Rev. J. C. Grose led this service. The Dedication Service for the Educational Building was held on Homecoming Sunday, May 26, 1974. Dr. Charles D. White led this service assisted by the Pastor, Rev. John J. Miller, and Rev. P. H. Gibbs and Rev. J. C. Grose, former Pastors. Contract for Educational Building was $142,-300.00. Air conditioning for the two buildings was $25,000.00, Sloan and Wheatly, Architects, designed this building and construction was by G. E. Vinroot and Company.

Two sons of Mount Zion have entered the Methodist Ministry and served in the Western North Carolina Conference; Rev. Conrad Cline Washam, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Washam and Rev. E. Marvin Hoyle, son of the late Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Hoyle. The elder Rev. Hoyle died July 3, 1917, while serving as Pastor of Mount Zion. One Missionary, the late Miss Ethel Bost, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bost, served for many years in the Methodist Mission field.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church has a membership of 856 with 320 enrolled in the Sunday School. For many years Mount Zion has had the distinction of being the largest rural church in the Western North Carolina Conference. The Church budget for 1978 is $108,730.

For our Church Celebration we offer this Prayer:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Indenture made this 24th day of March AD 1820 Between Alexander Washam of the one part & David George Abram Jetton of Rudell County Job Eaman Johnathan Moore & John Lemmons County Trustees in trust for the use & purposes herein after mentioned all of the State of N. C. of the other part Witnesseth that the s.d Washam for & in consideration of one dollar to him in hand paid at & upon the sealing & delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath given granted bargained & sold & by these presents doth give grant bargain & sell unto them the said Trustees & their successors a certain Lott or piece of land situate lying & being on s.d County of Mecklenburg Bounded as follows Beginning at a hickory on the old line thence with s.d line N.o 3 W.t 10 poles to a stone thence N.o 87 E.t 10 poles to a stone thence N.o 3 E.t 10 poles to a stone thence S.o 87 W.t 10 poles to the beginning containing two Acres & 44 poles together with the houses Wrego Waters & priviledges thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining To have & to hold all & singular the above mentioned Lot or piece of land with all the rights & priviledges thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining Unto them the s.d Trustees & their successors in office forever in trust that they shall Erect & build or cause to be erected & build thereon a house or place of Worship called Hyton for the use of the Members of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States of America according to the rules & discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon by the Ministers & Preachers of the s.d church at their general conference & the s.d Washam doth by these presents Warrant & forever defend all & singular the before mentioned Lott of land with the appurtenances thereto belonging Unto them the said Trustees & their successors in office from the claims or claims of him the s.d Washam his heirs & assigns & from the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the day & date above written

Alexander Washam (Seal)

Sealed & delivered in presence of }
Lucy Ann & Robert Kerr } Mecklenburg County May Term 1820

These are to certify that the Execution of this deed was duly proven in Court by Robert Kerr a subscribing Witness & recorded Let it be registered test Isaac Alexander Clerk

Judges Fee $2.00

Articals of engreiment betwen David Mulford of the one part and James Black of the other part Witnes that James Black doth agree to do the workmanship of plulding a meating House to be Cald Zion in a good and workmanlike manner to be possessed of and the first of July the agree to make the wall of a house thirty five feet long and twenty seven feet wide a floor and weatherboard and Cover said House and make nine windows fifteen lits with Shutes and three doors and lay the flower up and weatherboarding is to be duff and make a gallory ten feet wide and three stour to be in said House and flower to be duff and all the matreals is to be found at the place and shingls and nails to be found said Black and obligate him self to the above described work for twenty Dollars to be paid when said work is finnished by said David Mulford in Witness we have set our hands and Seals this 16th day Febiuary 1835

Test W. B. Doty

James Black
David Mulford

Confederate Soldiers Buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery

1. Robert M. Armour
2. John Alley
3. Franklin Almon
4. I. W. Barnett
5. John V. Bost
6. W. A. Brown
7. Caleb E. Bost
8. J. D. Brackett
9. John Z. Deaton
10. J. R. Deaton (Bob)
11. Joseph W. Gillespie
12. John Goodrum
13. Moses Hovis
14. Capt. B. C. Henry
15. Samuel L. Hucks
16. John Holler
17. W. S. Isenhour
18. Joe Knox
19. William Lockman
20. W. A. Mock
21. Jonathan Mooney
22. Joseph M. Morrow
23. Joe Moore
24. J. H. McConnell
25. Alex Nantz
26. Samuel Pucket
27. R. G. Proctor
28. William Russ
29. Alfred H. Smith
30. Richard Johnston Stough
31. John Stillwell
32. Jeptha A. Sherrill
33. W. Russell Stearns
34. John W. Stearns
35. Capt. Taylor Stitt
36. N. J. Sherrill, Sr.
37. John Turbyfill
38. Jim H. Torrence
39. Samuel T. Thompson
40. W. T. Thompson
41. Joel White
42. James T. White
43. John R. Washam
44. R. R. Washam
45. Ben A. Withers

Earlier Ministerial Leadership of Mount Zion

	Circuit Riders	Junior Preacher	Presiding Elder
1827	David F. Waid		Malcolm McPherson
1828	Benjamin Bell		Malcolm McPherson
1829	Benjamin Bell		Malcolm McPherson
1830	Absolem Brown		Hartwell Spain
1831	Absolem Brown		Hartwell Spain
1832	James P. Richardson	John K. Morse	Hartwell Spain
1833	John Watts		Hartwell Spain
1834	Trecy R. Walsh		Charles Betts
1835	Jacob Ozier		Benjamin Bell
1836	Daniel G. McDaniel	John H. Postell	Allen Hamby
1837	William R. Smith	Joseph P. Kirsten	Allen Hamby
1838	William Harrison		Allen Hamby
1839	J. M. Bradley		Will Crook
1840	Camble Smith	P. G. Bowman	William Crook
1841	Benjamin Hamilton		William Crook
1842	Michael Robbins	John A. Porter	William Crook
1843	Ira L. Potter		Whatcoat Asbery Gamewell
1844	Hugh E. Ogburn		Whatcoat Asbery Gamewell
1845	Lewis Scarborough		Whatcoat Asbery Gamewell
1846	Lewis Scarborough	Robert A. Taylor	Whatcoat Asbery Gamewell
1847	Claudius H. Prichard	William Barringer	Albert M. Shipp
1848	C. H. Pritchard	T. M. Farrow	A. M. Foster
1849	Paul A. Williams	Thomas M. Farrow	A. M. Foster
1850	J. H. Robinson	E. G. Pennington	A. M. Foster
1851	J. W. Falkner	D. J. Simmons	H. H. Durant
1852	Wm. C. Patterson	J. L. Palmer	H. H. Durant
1853	P. F. Kistler	John D. May	H. H. Durant
1854	J. M. Brantley	John D. May	D. Derrick
1855	J. W. J. Harris	J. L. Nelson	David Derrick
1856	John Watts	J. W. Murray	Hilliard C. Parsons
1857	G. W. M. Creighton	J. H. Gleason	Hilliard C. Parsons
1858	L. M. Little	J. L. McGregor	Sidi H. Brown
1859	E. A. Price	J. W. Abernathy	Sidi H. Brown
1860	W. W. Jones		F. A. Wood
1861	W. W. Jones	J. W. Abernathy	John F. Wightman
1862	J. S. Nelson		R. P. Franks
1863	Lewis Scarborough	J. W. Abernathy	R. P. Franks
1864	Lewis Scarborough		R. P. Franks
1865	B. G. Jones	James D. Carpenter	R. P. Franks
1866	B. G. Jones	F. B. Andrews	J. W. North
1867	J. J. Prather	R. L. Duffey	J. W. North
1868	J. J. Prather		J. W. North
1869	J. J. Prather		J. W. North
1870	R. L. Dagnall		E. J. Meynardie
1871	Unknown		W. S. Black

Pastors Who Have Served Mt. Zion Church

1872 - 1878 — Rev. T. P. Triplett
1878 - 1881 — Rev. J. T. Harris
1881 - 1883 — Rev. W. P. Wililams
1883 - 1887 — Dr. J. W. North
1887 - 1888 — Rev. L. E. Stacey
1888 - 1892 — Rev. M. A. Smith
1892 - 1893 — Rev. J. O. Shelley
1893 - 1894 — Dr. J. H. Keith; Rev. J. F. England
1894 - 1895 — Rev. J. E. Gay
1895 - 1896 — Rev. J. S. Nelson
1897 - 1898 — Rev. Ira Erwin
1898 - 1900 — Rev. J. O. Shelley
1900 - 1902 — Rev. C. M. Campbell
1902 - 1904 — Rev. H. M. Vestal
1904 - 1907 — Rev. W. H. Willis
1907 - 1908 — Dr. Dan Atkins
1908 - 1909 — Rev. S. T. Barber
1909 - 1910 — Rev. J. W. Clegg
1910 - 1911 — Rev. J. W. Jones
1911 - 1912 — Rev. C. A. Woods
1912 - 1913 — Rev. Z. Paris; Rev. Excel Rozzelle
1913 - 1914 — Rev. C. M. Pickens
1914 - 1915 — Rev. T. J. Ogburn
1915 - 1917 — Rev. E. M. Hoyle; Rev. George Page
1917 - 1918 — Rev. J. A. Green; Rev. T. A. Groce; Rev. H. G. Allen
1918 - 1920 — Rev. W. B. Davis
1920 - 1922 — Rev. T. C. Jordan
1922 - 1925 — Rev. J. H. Bradley
1925 - 1927 — Rev. G. W. Vick
1927 - 1929 — Rev. R. A. Swarangin
1929 - 1931 — Rev. H. H. Robbins
1931 - 1933 — Rev. W. A. Barber
1933 - 1937 — Rev. E. M. Avett
1937 - 1939 — Rev. H. C. Sprinkle
1939 - 1945 — Rev. W. S. Smith
1945 - 1949 — Rev. Byron Shankle
1949 - 1956 — Rev. F. W. Kiker
1956 - 1958 — Rev. G. E. White
1958 - 1962 — Rev. J. C. Grose, Sr.
1962 - 1967 — Rev. D. G. Bridger
1967 - 1972 — Rev. P. H. Gibbs
1972 - 1976 — Rev. J. J. Miller
1976 - — Rev. R. E. Bell

The Administrative Board — 1978

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Roy E. Bell	Pastor
Tom Dutton	Chairman, Council on Ministries
Mrs. Judy Caldwell	Coordinator, Elementary Children
Cleve Cox	Chairman, Pastor-Parish Rel. Comm.
Mrs. Sue Frye	Chairman, Worship
Mrs. Eudine Griffith	President, UMW
Mrs. Bobbie Hager	Coordinator, Younger Children
Mrs. Willie Howard	Superintendent Church School
George Kelly	Coordinator, Adult Ministries
Mrs. Tompy Kelly	Chairman, Missions
Mrs. Doris Kerley	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Jean Lowrance	Chairman, Social Concerns
Mrs. Jane Smith	Chairman, Education
Michael Pittard	Director of Music
Hugh Roy Smith	Chairman, Stewardship
Woodrow T. Washam, Sr.	Chairman, Evangelism
Ben Brown	Lay Leader
Buford Readling	Chairman, Trustees

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Term Expires 1978	Term Expires 1979	Term Expires 1980
Mrs. Jean Baskette	Mrs. Ray Atwell	Mrs. Phi Alexander
Joe Bost	Willis R. Boyd	Jerry Bare
Nick Brown	Clyde Caldwell	W. R. Deaton
Ralph Burt, AB	Miss Mary Cooke	Mrs. Judy Eller
Carroll Clark	Mrs. Anita Lassiter	Maurice Eury
Mrs. Peggy Crawford FM	Lawrence Moore	Mrs. Nancy Lowrance
Mrs. Pat Edlund, R. Sec., CY	Mrs. Shirley Newton	Parks McClure
Leon Frye	Frank Washam	K. W. Newton
Luther Harwell	A. J. White	R. Glenn Sparks
Mrs. Henry McCall		Burl Thompson
David Scott		James Townsend
		Richard Washam

Youth Members: Judy Putnam, John McConnell

Honorary Members: Clyde Cashion
Prentiss Cashion
Mrs. Frank Sherrill, Sr.
Mrs. W. W. Washam

TRUSTEES

1978	1979	1980
Buford Readling	Leon Frye	B. S. Sherrill, Jr.
Earl Goodrum	Robert Sims	Mrs. Phi Alexander
Chester Cooke	Otis Wally	Walter Bell

Council on Ministries—1978

Minister	Roy E. Bell
Chairperson of Council on Ministries	Tom Dutton
Chairperson of Administrative Board	Ralph Burt
The Lay Leader	Ben Brown
President of United Methodist Women	Mrs. Eudine Griffith
Coordinator of Younger Children	Mrs. Tommy Hager
Coordinator of Elementary Children	Mrs. Judy Caldwell
Coordinator of Youth Ministries	Mrs. Pat Edlund
Coordinator of Adult Ministries	George Kelly
Coordinator of Family Ministries	Mrs. Peggy Crawford
Chairperson, Ecumenical Affairs	Mrs. Flora Williams
Chairperson, Education	Mrs. Jane Smith
Chairperson, Evangelism	Woodrow T. Washam, Sr.
Chairperson, Missions	Mrs. Tompy Kelly
Chairperson, Social Concerns	Mrs. Jean Lowrance
Chairperson, Stewardship	Hugh Roy Smith
Chairperson, Worship	Mrs. Sue Frye
Superintendent of Church School	Mrs. Willie Howard
Health and Welfare Representative	Mrs. Phi Alexander
Youth Member, Senior High	Judy Putnam
Youth Member, Junior High	John McConnell

Other Church Officers

Lay Member of Annual Conference ..... Mrs. Phyllis Sherrill
First Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference ..... Mrs. Tompy Kelly
Second Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference ..... Mrs. Eudine Griffith
Chairperson United Methodist Builders Club ..... George McAlister
Financial Secretary ..... Church Treasurer
Membereship Secretary ..... Church Secretary
Chairperson, Parsonage Committee ..... Mrs. Phi Alexander
Chairperson, Committee on Records and History ..... Mrs. Parks Brown
Representative Conference Brotherhood ..... Lay Leader
Chairperson on Estate Planning ..... Mrs. Rosa Belle Hieatzman
Career Planning and Counseling Secretary ..... Mrs. Jane Smith
District Mission Society Representative ..... Mrs. Tompy Kelly
Committee on Good Literature Chairperson ..... Mrs. Nadine Cox
N. C. Christian Advocate Representative ..... Mrs. Dot Sherrill

PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Cleve Cox, *Chairman*

Term Expires 1978	Term Expires 1979	Term Expires 1980
Walter Bell	Cleve Cox	Joe Bost
Mrs. Gloria Goforth	Miss Ann Caldwell	Miss Pauline Donaldson
George Kelly	Mrs. Phyllis Sherrill LM	

Committee on Finance

Wesley Rood, *Chairman*

W. R. Boyd
Ralph Burt AB
Kenneth Caldwell
Carroll Clark
Mrs. Peggy Crawford
W. R. Deaton
Mrs. Lilyan Hunter
Mrs. Doris Kerley, Tr.
Hugh Roy Smith
Otis Wally
Woodrow T. Washam, Sr.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel

Minister, *Chairman*

Term Expires 1978	Term Expires 1979	Term Expires 1980
Otis Wally	Mrs. Eudine Griffith	Mrs. Betty Clark
Hugh Roy Smith	Lamont Donaldson	Jack Kerley

Lay Speakers

Wilbur Sherrill
Ben Brown
Jerry Sossamon

Communion Stewards

Miss Pauline Donaldson
Mrs. Inez Sherrill

NOTES